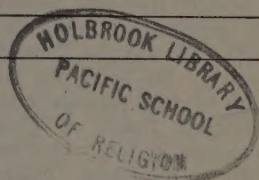


# THE CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS LETTER

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## **FOREFATHERS' DAY** **Sunday, November 23, 1958**

The Forefathers were pioneers not only in building new homes in the American wilderness but in developing a new way of life both in church and state that has come to be called Americanism. These New England pioneers were venturing not only into a new country but into a new area of thought and action. They had not come to America with the purpose of transplanting to these shores a European culture. They sought a new way of life, a life of freedom and security. Their form of religious, political and social life became so changed that both in America and in England the "New England Way" was early labeled "an American invention."

Other groups coming to America usually sought to set up their church and social agencies after a European pattern, but as the years went on these new groups, confronting pioneer conditions and being at such a distance from European centers, gradually developed independent forms and ideals somewhat similar to those of New England. In time the essentials of the "New England Way" became consciously, or unconsciously, incorporated in our national life and are clearly evident today.

The Manchester (England) *Guardian*, a great world paper, in its issue of August 9, 1956, commenting on Americans, said:

"One of the outstanding characteristics of Americans is their willingness to experiment with new ideas and new discoveries and their eagerness to see if they work and what results they produce. They are prepared to take any scientific discovery from the laboratory and translate it into the terms of the engineering shop or the factory. In the religious field one of the principal differences between the Churches in America and those in Europe is that while we have been discussing at ever greater length and with ever increasing subtlety whether the affirmations of the Christian Gospel are a set of "meaningless noises," they give their time and energy to finding out what happens if you take these affirmations — or some rival set — at their face value as a way of life. It is refreshing and cheering that when we have propounded our theorems and solemnly pronounced the Q.E.D. there should be the voice that says, 'So what?' and 'Where do we go from here?' and will not take 'Nothing' and 'Nowhere' for answers."

The ideals of the Fathers concerning freedom of thought, self-discipline, community responsibility and their acceptance of the principle that "private interests must not be put in opposition to the public good" and their "great ideals and noble visions," are a heritage which the pioneers, with all their shortcomings and experimental failures, have left us as a Way of Life highly worthy of being held in respect and reverent memory.

The memories and meanings of the great days celebrated in this season should aid our understanding of our many-sided heritage. Let us not assume an attitude of complacency but rather of rededication to the ideals that gave to the lives and labor of the Fathers everlasting values.

F. L. F.

## In Memoriam

This Forefathers' Day number of our News Letter has been prepared in loving memory of Frederick Louis Fagley. He was the devoted and beloved Secretary of our Congregational Christian Historical Society from the time of its organization until his death last August 25th. He was the "founding father" of our Society. He loved it. He guided its affairs with wisdom, patience, courage and faith. Our cherished Spirit of Congregationalism was incarnate in him. Our memories of him all point to the future. There he is, with all true forefathers, beckoning us to follow on, with certitude of tread, in the Pilgrim Way and the Pilgrim Faith.

Gladly, with thankful hearts, we let Fred Fagley speak to us in this News Letter with words written in other years. We are glad and grateful, also, that we may include in this issue a portion of Dr. Penner's prayer, offered at the funeral service in Newport, New Hampshire.

Our Congregational Christian Historical Society will pay its highest tribute to Fred Fagley by venturing bravely forward, as we know he would have us do.

ARTHUR H. BRADFORD, President.

### Forefathers' Day Prayer

O God, before whose face the generations rise and pass away: age after age the living seek thee, and find that of thy faithfulness there is no end. Our fathers, in their pilgrimage, walked by thy guidance, and rested on thy compassion. Still to us, their children, be thou the cloud by day, the fire by night; where but in thee have we a covert from the storm or shadow from the heat of life? In our manifold temptations, thou alone knowest and are ever nigh. In sorrow thy comfort renews our life. In prosperity and ease, it is thy spirit only that can wean us from pride and selfishness. O Thou sole source of peace and righteousness, take now the veil from every heart, and join us in one communion with thy prophets and saints, who have trusted in thee and have been left desolate. Not of our witness, but by thy tender mercy, hear our prayer; in Jesus' name. AMEN.

(Used at the Memorial Service)

**A Portion of the Prayer for Dr. Fagley's Funeral Service conducted by Dr. Albert J. Penner at Newport, New Hampshire, August 25.**

In these solemn and tender moments we recall with grateful appreciation every remembrance of thy servant Frederick Fagley who has passed through death into life. We give thee thanks for his full life given in service to the church of Christ, for his leadership in and to our fellowship, for his creative gifts as

a teacher and writer, for his wise counsel, and for the inspiration and encouragement he gave to countless ministers. We are grateful for his breadth of spirit, his liberal outlook, his charitable judgments. Truly he was a workman in thy Kingdom who needed not to be ashamed.

We recall especially at this moment what he has meant to this sorrowing family as husband and father, his devotion to his home and family, his love and enjoyment of life, whether on the crowded city streets or amid these peaceful hills and lakes. For every gracious and kindly quality of life we thank thee — for a life's task faithfully and honorably discharged for his good humor and generosity, his loyalty and kindness, and also for the example of his patience in the face of prolonged physical weakness and distress.

Almighty God, we entrust all who are dear to us to thy never-failing care and love, for this life and for the life to come; knowing that underneath are the everlasting arms and that thou art doing for them better things than we can desire or pray for. So we give thy servant Frederick back to thee who gavest him to us. Grant him thy peace. Let light perpetual shine upon him. Amen.

### Memorial Service

A memorial service was held on October 20th at 3.30 P.M. in Taylor Chapel, Broadway Congregational Church, New York City, the church of which Dr. Fagley had been a member for the last twenty years and of which he was a deacon.

#### Order of Service

The Invocation	Joseph D. Huntley
Scripture Reading	Stanley U. North
The Denominational Fellowship	
	Douglas Horton
The Wider Fellowship	Samuel McCrea Cavern
The Local Fellowship	Albert J. Penner
Service of Prayer	Fred S. Buschmeyer
The Benediction	Joseph D. Huntley

#### THE DAUNTLESS DISCIPLE

One who never turned his back but marched breast forward,

Never doubted clouds would break,  
Never dreamed, though right were worsted,  
Wrong would triumph,

Held we fall to rise, are baffled to fight better,  
Sleep to wake.

No, at noonday in the bustle of man's work-time

Greet the unseen with a cheer!

Bid him forward, breast and back as either  
should be,

"Strive and thrive!" cry, "Speed—fight on  
fare ever

There as here!"

From *Epilogue*, by Robert Browning



## Tribute of Friendship

A letter just received from the United States brings the sad news of the passing of Fred Fagley, known to and loved by so many friends on this side of the Atlantic. For many years he was one of the great leaders in American Congregationalism, held in the highest regard by the Churches from coast to coast. For the sake of the younger generation who never knew him, may I put it on record that from 1922 until 1948, when he retired he was Associate Secretary of the General Council of the Congregational Christian Churches, and Dr. Douglas Horton's loyal and devoted colleague. In the last war he was intimately associated with the American chaplains, and was chairman of the committee which supervised their work.

Although his service was mainly on the administrative side, his interests were on a wider scale. For example, his concern for the preservation of Congregational history led him to found the Congregational Christian Historical Society of America, and in his retirement he devoted most of his time and energy to it. Although latterly he was the victim of a dread disease he made all the arrangements for a joint meeting of the two historical societies during the recent meeting of the International Congregational Council at Hartford. Illness made it impossible for him to attend but Mr. Calder told me that the details of this historians' gathering, including the sending out of the invitations, were in his hands. That last touch, it proved to be, was characteristic of the whole of his life and work. When the International Congregational Council was given an organization, at the Wellesley Conference, Dr. Fagley became its first Treasurer and I well remember his watchdog alacrity in guarding its financial interests. The International Council owes more than is generally known to his devoted service during its formative and often difficult years. I cannot, of course, give any complete estimate of his work for the churches in the United States, but I do know from a very close acquaintance with the situation out there, what a great place he had won for himself in their confidence and affection. He was a true *pastor pastorum*. He edited their quarterly publication of *Daily Devotions*, and in that way led their thoughts and aspirations when they knelt in the Presence of God. When a question of plan or policy was being discussed, it was common to hear men ask, "What does old Fagley think?" They had learned to trust his judgment.

How can I give a picture of the man to those who never met him? He was certainly not like the conventional idea of an ecclesiastic. There was nothing smooth or soft-spoken about him. When he gave his opinion you were not

left wondering what exactly he meant. He was always direct and forthright. He had something of the look of a man from the countryside, and his judgments as well as his speech were "down to earth." And more than that — his religion had the feel of the wide open spaces about it, warmed by the sunshine and cleansed by wind and rain. There was never a trace of meanness or narrowness in his outlook, and like the true countryman he was gentle in all his dealings. A man to know and to love indeed! To me, it is the great friend to whose memory I am trying to pay tribute, and all the time with a song of thanksgiving that I was privileged to know him.

Perhaps some of the older folk who went under Dr. Sleep's generalship on that memorable visit to the United States on board the *Celtic*, may remember our American guide who was with us on our journey. He came over specially to talk to us about the land we were to visit. He talked to us individually and in groups. He made us wise about things we did not know. He shared in our fun and games as well as in our services. He told us stories in his own inimitable way. It was Fred Fagley who was with us as our pilot to the new world. Now do you recognize him, you who were there in those happy days? If you hadn't that good fortune all I can do is to offer you as a poor recompense these words of gratitude to God for a servant of His who made the world a finer place by his life and company.

DR. SIDNEY M. BERRY  
of London, former Minister and Secretary of the International Congregational Council, and a close friend of Dr. Fagley. We are happy to reprint "A Tribute of Friendship" which appeared in *The Christian World*, September 18.

## Three Friends of the Society

The Society has lost by death three members of the Board of Governors:

**WILLIAM W. ROCKWELL**, New York City, May 30. Former professor of church history at Union Theological Seminary and librarian emeritus. Dr. Rockwell was a son of New England, deeply in love with its life and traditions, and greatly interested in the work of the Society.

**ROY M. HOUGHTON**, minister emeritus of the Church of Christ in Milford, Conn., August 11. Dr. Houghton was an interested member and a faithful attendant at the Society's meetings.

**HARRY THOMAS STOCK**, West Medford, Mass., August 30. Dr. Stock was head of the Pilgrim Press Division of the Board of Home Missions. In his field of preparing and preserving the literature of our churches he was interested in the same concerns that activated our Society.

## A Meditation for Forefathers' Day

Plymouth harbor holds one little vessel. Aboard are but a hundred "saints and strangers," a small company to pit against the American Wilderness. And yet, their resources are incalculable since their help is from the Almighty. They called on him and he answered them.

In our vastly different age the basic need of man remains. Like our forefathers, we depend upon the Lord in our pilgrimage. Technical advances have not made the future any more assured. Our fears have not decreased in the glare of atomic explosions. The age-old promise of the faithfulness of God is still our most needed assurance.

We can be thankful for the example of the Pilgrims, whose radiant faith lighted the darkness of both nature and man. They demonstrated that God is man's help, that his promise from ages past is for all the years to come. May our children so learn from our example of faith, lived in confidence and trust, that they may take up their pilgrimage sustained by an unfaltering assurance in the mercies of God.

CHARLES D. BROADBENT

(From *Daily Devotions*)

## Response to Annual Appeal

The Society greatly appreciates the response we have received to date to our annual appeal. Contributions, as of date of going to press,

are \$2,050. We are particularly glad to know of new contributors gained: 11 new churches, 2 new associations and 14 new individuals. It is important for the health and growth of the Society such as ours that new friends are constantly found and we invite further gifts.

## Acknowledgment

The Society's office wishes to acknowledge the many letters of sympathy and appreciation which have been received. These have been conveyed to Mrs. Fagley and her children.

The officers of the Congregational Christian Historical Society are deeply grateful to Mrs. Mary vonGlatz for the splendid manner in which she has kept the office going since Dr. Fagley's death. She has faithfully taken care of all necessary correspondence, acknowledged contributions, and assembled the material for this News Letter. Her service has gone beyond the call of duty and we thank her very much.

Plans are proceeding for the future of our Society and we believe that when they are announced, they will meet with universal favor. Friends of the Society have written expressing their hope that the work so splendidly begun will go forward in accordance with the general pattern of Dr. Fagley's leadership. As soon as possible, an announcement will be made in the *United Church Herald*.

## THE CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Arthur H. Bradford  
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James H. Lightbourne  
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